

## Officer Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I get into OSI?

A: It depends on your current status (i.e., cadet, active duty officer, etc.). See related memorandums on this website under the questions tab at the top of the page that pertain to your current situation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: How can I make my application package more competitive?

A: The board considers the “whole person” concept when reviewing records. Things such as GPA, class ranking, academic major, extracurricular activities, professional associations, and officer performance reports are weighted differently depending on the applicant and their overall experiences. OSI is a federal law enforcement agency and highlighting a passion for law enforcement (e.g., experience, participating in local police-sponsored ride along programs, etc.) can only help develop an applicant’s package. We need self-starting, dedicated, socially adept, and discrete individuals to conduct counterintelligence operations and felony-level criminal investigations on behalf of Air Force and Department of Defense interests. As such we are looking for applicants that demonstrate these qualities in their lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: Is there a particular major that makes me more competitive?

A: No, there is not a specific degree applicants should pursue that would make them more competitive. AFOSI employs agents with varying degrees such as criminal justice, international relations, computer science, finance, engineering and psychology. We need a diverse corps of officers with the same diverse educational background. Your major itself is not as important as how well you perform academically or how engaged you were during your entire collegiate experience. If you are already an active duty officer, the same applies in terms of your performance reports and the aforementioned whole person concept.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: From whom should I obtain letters of recommendation?

A: It depends on how you want to develop your application package. Do you want to highlight a specific characteristic or present diversified experience? There is no absolute correct answer and the only guideline in the process is that applicants have no more or less than three letters of recommendation. If you are a cadet or you are an active duty officer, make sure your Commander furnishes one of the three letters. It is best to have letters of recommendation from people who actually know you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: How can I accomplish my mandatory interview with OSI?

A: Applicants can call the nearest OSI unit (there is a list of AFOSI units on the website) and request an interview with the unit Commander or Special Agent in Charge. Ensure you contact the unit well in advance of the date your application is due as AFOSI units are

very busy and it may take some time to schedule a time for your interview. In some cases, local AFOSI units will have an application process that is initiated through attendance at a monthly or quarterly recruiting briefing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: I already have a Top Secret clearance. Does that make me more competitive?

A: No, if an applicant is selected to be a special agent, HQ AFOSI will initiate an Applicant Suitability Investigation (ASI) which includes completion of paperwork for a Top Secret clearance. After the applicant is approved for duty, OSI will initiate the appropriate clearance through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: What is an Applicant Suitability Investigation?

A: This is an investigation done solely by AFOSI to evaluate an applicant's suitability for duty within the career field. It is separate from a Top Secret clearance. It is important to note that once the formal suitability investigation is completed, an individual's suitability is continually evaluated throughout the hiring process up until graduation from the academy. The ASI is conducted to ensure an applicant possesses the maturity, sound judgment, and decision making skills to meet the requirements and demands expected of agents in AFOSI.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: If I apply for OTS and am not selected for AFOSI duty, will I still be commissioned in the Air Force.

A: Yes, once an individual is selected for OTS, their application to AFOSI is forwarded to a special selection board. These boards are very competitive and we typically have many more applicants than we do allocations. If not selected for AFOSI, AFPC will attempt to classify you according to your desires and qualifications. Ultimately, an individual is never guaranteed a career field upon applying and the needs of the Air Force is the first consideration.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: What is the difference in serving in AFOSI as an enlisted, officer, or civilian agent?

A: Enlisted members normally focus mostly on investigations and field work. Once they reach the grade of E-7, they are typically transitioned into a leader and may work as a Superintendent or a Special Agent in Charge.

Officers in AFOSI initially focus on investigations and field work, but are quickly expected to be leaders, even early in their careers. This typically means after one or two assignments, they will transition to roles with less direct field work, to various leadership roles and staff officer positions which are more supervisory in nature.

Civilians experience some of both officer and enlisted career paths described above. Early in a civilian's career, they will focus mostly on investigations and field work. They also have the opportunity to specialize in one of AFOSI's specialty fields. As they progress in their career they may have the opportunity to lead a unit as a Special Agent in Charge.

All three career paths could serve in a staff position at AFOSI Headquarters at some point in their career.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: What type of cases do AFOSI agents work on?

A: AFOSI agents work on a variety of cases within the Air Force. These types of cases include sexual assault, felony-level criminal cases, fraud, counterintelligence and cyber-crimes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: If selected for AFOSI, will I get to choose the location where I work?

A: Not necessarily, AFOSI is a military organization and as such, we have agents stationed at various locations in various positions around the world. While we do attempt to get you to a geographic region you might be interested in going to, ultimately it is the needs of the Air Force and the needs of AFOSI that determine which unit you get assigned to. It is also important to note that as an officer or enlisted member, you will typically not spend more than four years in the same location.

\*\*\*\*\*

Q: If I am currently an officer in the Air Force, how do I crossflow into AFOSI?

A: The Air Force currently has no formal crossflow process or boards. The opportunity to change career fields as an officer is extremely limited. The first thing an individual must do is contact their assignment officer at AFPC to see if they would even be released from their career field to compete for AFOSI duty. Even if your career field can release you, there is no guarantee AFOSI can accept you based upon manning.

\*\*\*\*\*